

Name _____

Date _____



Middle Ages: Africa

300 CE: the camel was domesticated
By the Berbers. They revolutionized trading—
Large caravans transporting gold,
Salt, timber, and ivory—traded and sold.
City-states would benefit from duties on imports
And exports
Throughout the Eastern coast.
King Mansa Musa would gain the most—
The Mali Empire's king
From 1312 to 1337.
He rose
When West Africa was abundant in gold.
In 1324, he took a pilgrimage to Mecca.
His reputation spread; his caravan was mega.
Even Europeans heard of Musa's clout;
Africa, an economic powerhouse.
When the Catalan Atlas was published,
It showed Mansa Musa holding a gold nugget.
Medieval ages...often associated
With instability—but in Africa, abundance,
Power, wealth, and growth.
New ideas spread;
Trade and empires rose.
Let's go! Flourishing,
City-states expand,
More flourishing,
Gold and ivory trade,

More flourishing,
Salt and timber trade,
More flourishing.
The Berbers would trade goods and also cultures,
Ideas, and language,
Working with Arab traders.
Adopted Islam, which was advantageous in trade,
But African tradition was incorporated the same.
Both the Mali and Ghana Empires
Began to practice Islam; this was the new norm.
The same happened in the East with Swahili leaders.
The Quran brought literacy to the people.
Songhais even established Islamic law
In the 15th century, and all across
The continent, the people built many mosques.
This was a time of gain that turned into loss.
The transatlantic slave trade and colonialism
Could have hid this history by omission,
But proof of this era remains
Via statues, mosques, and universities the same.
Medieval ages...often associated
With instability—but in Africa, abundance,
Power, wealth, and growth.
New ideas spread;
Trade and empires rose.
Let's go! Flourishing,
City-states expand,
More flourishing,
Gold and ivory trade,
More flourishing,
Salt and timber trade,
More flourishing.

